

West Chester Police Department  
Police Service Log

Year: 2019

Employee Name: Thomas. James #182 TM  
Initial Above

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Classification	Supervisory Action Taken
<u>4/7/2019</u>	<u>4/7/2019</u>	<u>Commendation</u>	<u>Commended</u>

Initiating Supervisor  
Niehaus, Richard #40 JN40  
Initial Above

Reviewing Supervisor  
[Signature]  
Initial Above

PSL Attachment 0(0)

**Activity Summary:**


On 4-6-19 Diane Norton called to relay her appreciation of PO Thomas' service when he checked on her while her car was disabled on Cin-Day Rd near Maude-Hughes. Ms. Norton stated PO Thomas was polite and professional. PO Thomas is commended on presenting himself in a manner that reflected positively on the PD and himself.

1687  
4/19


SLH 130

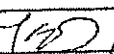
# West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

**Year:** 2018

Employee Name: **Thomas. James #182**   
Initial Above

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Classification	Supervisory Action Taken
6/25/2018	6/25/2018	Commendation	Commended

Initiating Supervisor  
**Gabbard, Thomas #115**   
Initial Above

Reviewing Supervisor  
**Gabbard, Thomas #115**   
Initial Above

PSL Attachment 0(0)

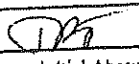
## Activity Summary:

On 6/16/2018, PO Thomas responded to the Beckett Springs Behavioral Center (18-2114) for a psychiatric emergency. The reporting party stated that a patient had become upset and was acting aggressive towards the staff. The patient had damaged his room and attempted to leave the facility on his own. Upon arrival, PO Thomas was informed that the patient was currently confined in a secured hallway. PO Thomas made contact with the patient and found that he was extremely agitated and uncooperative. PO Thomas was able to talk with the individual and deescalate the situation to the point where the patient was handcuffed and voluntarily left with officers. PO Thomas is to be commended for his ability and efforts to deescalate a volatile and potentially violent situation.

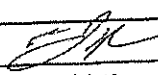
2/130

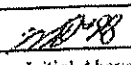
# West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2018

Employee Name: **Thomas, James #182**   
Initial Above

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Classification	Supervisory Action Taken
6/6/2018	6/7/2018	Commendation	Commended

Initiating Supervisor  
**Niehaus, Richard #40**   
Initial Above

Reviewing Supervisor  
**Quinn, Michael #98**   
Initial Above

PSL Attachment 0(0)

## Activity Summary:

On 5-28-18 PO Thomas, PO Michaud and PO Young responded to the area of Eagleview and West Chester Road for a suicidal male running toward the interstate. The known male subject had a history of jumping in front traffic on I75 in an attempt to harm himself.

Upon officers arrival the male subject climbed onto and sat on the bridge abutment overlooking I75. The subject was sitting on the edge of a 30 foot drop off to I75 when PO Young arrived and attempted to communicate with subject. The male would not talk to the officers or acknowledge them in anyway. As PO Young and Michaud talked the male PO Thomas was able to ease up next to and ultimately pull him to safety.


Once the subject was handcuffed the three officers were escorting him to a nearby cruiser when he began to resist. The subject head-butted PO Thomas as they were trying to get him to cross a guardrail. The subject had to be physically restrained and was placed on the ground in a controlled manner.

All three officers are commended on their handling of the situation and used very minimal force after one of them was intentionally assaulted. During the review of the incident it was noted that the officers were more concerned about the subject's safety and wellbeing then their own. Great job.

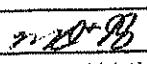
H13

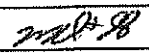
# West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2018

Employee Name: **Thomas, James #182**   
Initial Above

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Classification	Supervisory Action Taken
3/22/2018	3/27/2018	Commendation	Commended

Initiating Supervisor  
**Quinn, Michael #98**   
Initial Above

Reviewing Supervisor  
**Quinn, Michael #98**   
Initial Above

PSL Attachment @ (0)

## Activity Summary:

On March 17, 2018 while working road patrol you were dispatched to Top Golf for a report of a disorderly female, whom had been overserved and was refusing to find a ride home, possibly going to drive herself. Upon your arrival and conversation with this female, later identified as Pamela Dillon, you learned she didn't want to leave her vehicle at Top Golf and take an Uber home due to the fact she didn't want her son to know she had been drinking. Ms. Dillon was insistent that her car not remain at Top Golf, but she agreed she would take an Uber home. Officer Thomas recommended to Ms. Dillon that she have her vehicle towed, explaining to her that it could be expensive, but she would be able to have her vehicle at her home. She then stated that she would just take an Uber and follow the tow truck with her vehicle. Officer Thomas recommended that she just ride with the tow truck driver and save herself some money by not having to pay for the Uber, but only the tow. She agreed and the arrangements were made and she was transported home by Nicks towing, along with her vehicle.

On March 19, 2018 Ms. Dillon sent an email to Chief Herzog saying how impressed she was with the three officers that assisted her on Saturday Night. She described all three officers as perfect Gentlemen, who stayed with her until the tow truck arrived. She went on to say that "Jim Thomas had the epic idea of having both Me and My Car transported back to Springboro." She wanted to express her gratitude by stating "THANKS AGAIN, YOU'RE AWESOME."

I want to commend you for your commitment and providing the highest quality service and keeping within our Guiding Principles. You displayed professionalism and showed your ability to think outside of the box to assist Ms. Dillon. Thank you and keep up the great work!

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2017

Employee Name/Badge #: Det. James Thomas 182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
4/25/2017	4/25/17	Commended	JPT 182	JSG 167	JSG 167	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

Det. James Thomas investigated an abduction and rape in offense #17-749. The incident involved Spanish speaking victim and suspect making communication difficult. The case was bound over to grand jury.

Prosecutor Brad Burress was at West Chester PD on an unrelated matter and intentionally provided positive feedback to Det. Thomas stating Det. Thomas did a very good job testifying to assist the case in being bound over. Det. Thomas is commended for his case preparation and testimony.

Sgt. Jeff Gearhart 167

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2017

Employee Name/Badge #: Det. James Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
8/1/2017	8/1/17	Commended	JT 182	J36/67	J36/67	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

Det. Thomas displayed great effort and resourcefulness investigating burglary #17-2408. In this case, Det. Thomas was called out to assist road patrol with the arrest, interviews, and processing of evidence related to the offense. Det. Thomas conducted interviews of the arrested subjects who denied involvement in the burglary. Det. Thomas is commended for not ending his investigation at the arrest of the offenders. He continued to investigate the offense, by periodically checking LEADSONLINE. This extra effort enabled him to discover that one of the previous interviewed suspects bonded out of jail and then pawned one of the stolen computers. This extra effort developed additional evidence against the suspects, as well as, enable us to recover stolen items for the victim. Det. Thomas is commended for his efforts.

Sgt. Jeff Gearhart 167

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2017

Employee Name/Badge #: James Thomas, #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
7/18/2017	7/21/17	Commended	JT 182	Sgt 116	Sgt 116	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

In January of this year, I took over supervision of the Honor Guard from Sgt. Campbell when he left the department. The transition was seamless, largely in part to the work and efforts of senior Honor Guard member Det. Jim Thomas. Det. Thomas was instrumental in our efforts to order replacement equipment for the unit and research new equipment as well. Additionally, Det. Thomas put together a proposal for the Honor Guard to travel to Washington DC for the 2017 National Law Enforcement Memorial Week. This proposal included scheduling events for Honor Guard to participate, hotel and travel expenses, and overall logistics of the trip. As a result of his efforts, the proposal was approved and the trip was executed in a very organized, professional manner without incident. I continue to be impressed with Det. Thomas' dedication to the Honor Guard and he is to be commended.

Sgt. John Kleinfeldt, #116

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2017

Employee Name/Badge #: Det. Jim Thomas, #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
12/1/2017	12/5/17	Commended	JAT 182	JAL 116		

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 members of the West Chester Police Department Honor Guard, including PO Nick Gattermeyer, PO Adam Roth, PO Mike Veeneman, PO Jeff Gieske and PO Jim Thomas presented our Nation's Colors before the Cincinnati Bengals game at Paul Brown Stadium. This was the first time our Honor Guard presented the Colors for a National Football League (NFL) game. As a result, the officers could only prepare for the presentation the day of the game, just hours before the actual event.

Despite little preparation and torrential down pours of rain, these officers performed exceptionally well during the presentation. In addition to the Cincinnati Bengals representative, multiple individuals on the field and in the stands commented on how impressed they were with the uniformity and professionalism of the unit and the presentation. As a result, PO Gattermeyer, PO Roth, PO Veeneman, PO Gieske, and PO Thomas are to be commended for their outstanding performance.



## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2016

Employee Name/Badge #: James Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
2/9/2016	2/9/2016	Commended	JM 182	ML 98	ML 98	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On 2/5/16 you received a thank you letter from Ms. Kathy Diefenbacher in regard to assisting her with an investigation (15-4182). This was a possible theft report where she paid for services up front and the company only completed a portion of the work. You were able to make contact with the company and ensure that they completed the rest of the work that was agreed upon for the payment made by Ms. Diefenbacher. She was very appreciative of your assistance and advice given to her. This letter will be placed in your personnel file.

I would like to commend you for ensuring Ms. Diefenbacher had a positive experience with you and our department. Great job as always and keep up the good work.

15-4182



Detective Thomas,

Thank you for your time  
and advise on Tuesday  
morning.

I liked hearing about how  
you tracked the four guys down.

Please enjoy some breakfast  
on your way to work one  
morning.

Shalom

Mrs. Gary Dujenbacher



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOEL M. HERZOG

CHIEF OF POLICE

April 27, 2016

**Letter of Appreciation**

Sgt. John Kleinfeldt, Det. Steven Beck, Sgt. Jeff Gearhart, Det. Jason Flick, Det. Kevin Burger, PO Mike Lopez, Det. Jim Whitehouse, Lt. Dave Tivin, Sgt. Brad Walraven, Det. A.J. Schweier, PO Tim Mintkenbaugh, Det. Travis Oakes, Det. Jim Thomas, PO Jeff Newman, PO Joe Beck, PO Mark York, PO Michelle Berling, PO Shane McPhillips, PO Mike Sly, PO Rich Michaud, Sgt. Jeff Niehaus, PO Steve Seitzman, PO Anthony Hawkins

On March 11, 2016 in the late afternoon hours, the West Chester Police Department received notification from the Secret Service that Donald Trump would be coming to West Chester the afternoon of March 13 for a town-hall style event. This event was originally scheduled to take place in Cincinnati and was changed at the last minute. It was to take place at the Savannah Center with 4000 tickets made available. Only 1600 would be permitted to enter the facility.

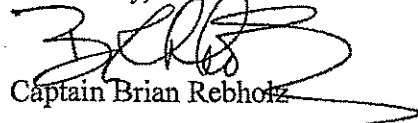
Based on recent events, especially a rally held in Dayton, Ohio earlier in the week where open-carry supporters were present, we anticipated the potential for physical confrontations between Trump supporters and protestors. While tensions rose at times and two individuals did show up with rifles, the officers dealing with these individuals and on the front line were very diplomatic and tolerant. As a result, we experienced no negative incidents and as some joked prior to the event, we did not end up on CNN or Fox News.

I cannot say enough about the professionalism and the image you all displayed in front of the national media. Yes, they were there and they were recording, but due to the contributions of each officer in and around this event to include our partner agencies, we had no incidents to report on. We have a strong, positive, professional image here in West Chester known regionally and most of you know and understand that. However, when placed on the national stage the stakes are very high and one negative incident can take years to rectify. As expected, the first impression for many was very positive.

I received numerous comments on how well law enforcement handled the event in West Chester. As I told other agencies that assisted us with this event, I am always impressed when multiple agencies are brought together to satisfy an objective. To see you all intermingled with members from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Butler County Sheriff's Office, and several other agencies makes me proud and I believe this sends a very clear message: We are organized, we are professional, and we are in control.

You all represented West Chester well and your colleagues enjoy working with you. I challenge you all to continue to set the example for other agencies to follow. The integrity, commitment, professionalism, and courage of the officers of the West Chester Police Department were on center stage on March 13, 2016. Keep up the great work and apply these principles to everything you do and stand for.

Fraternally,

  
Captain Brian Rebholz

  
THOMAS

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2016

Employee Name/Badge #: James Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
2/9/2016	2/9/2016	Commended				

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On 2/5/16 you received a thank you letter from Ms. Kathy Diefenbacher in regard to assisting her with an investigation (15-4182). This was a possible theft report where she paid for services up front and the company only completed a portion of the work. You were able to make contact with the company and ensure that they completed the rest of the work that was agreed upon for the payment made by Ms. Diefenbacher. She was very appreciative of your assistance and advice given to her. This letter will be placed in your personnel file.

I would like to commend you for ensuring Ms. Diefenbacher had a positive experience with you and our department. Great job as always and keep up the good work.

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2015

Employee Name/Badge #: Detective Jim Thomas # 182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
7/8/2015	7/8/2015	Commended	JT 182	28687		

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On 7/2/15, I received an E-mail from P.T. Oakes who had recently attended the monthly domestic violence meeting in Hamilton. In that e-mail, it is noted that PO Dunlevy responded to a domestic violence run in our jurisdiction. The victim in that offense describes PO Dunlevy as very respectful, professional and informative. His actions made her less apprehensive about the court hearing the following week. She also felt that this offense was taken seriously by him.

Following up on that same case, Detective Thomas worked with the victim to obtain video from her cell phone related to this offense. The victim described Detective Thomas as "phenomenal."

PO Dunlevy and Detective Thomas are to be commended for a job well done!

## Joe Gutman

---

**From:** Brian Rebholz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 08, 2015 11:55 AM  
**To:** Joe Gutman  
**Subject:** FW: Officer

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI Joe.

---

**From:** Steve Oakes  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2015 2:57 PM  
**To:** jgutman  
**Cc:** Brian Rebholz  
**Subject:** FW: Officer

This was brought up at my monthly Domestic Violence meeting. She wanted to convey how professional our department was in handling this domestic call.

Steve



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**From:** Kyra Taylor [<mailto:TaylorK@butlercountyohio.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2015 2:48 PM  
**To:** Steve Oakes  
**Subject:** Officer

Steve,

The officer that responded to my friend's residence the night that her husband was arrested and charged with domestic violence is Nick Dunlevy. She stated that he was very respectful, professional, and provided her with information that she needed. As such, she stated that she is less apprehensive about the court hearing scheduled for next week because of how the officer treated her and how he left her with the impression that this offense was taken seriously.

When I asked her for the officer's name, she also gave me the name of the detective that she met with later who helped her get the video off of her cell phone so that it could be used as evidence. She stated that he was also "phenomenal." His name is Jim Thomas.

Kyra

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2015

Employee Name/Badge #: Jim Thomas, 182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
3/12/2015		Commended	CTM 182			

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, AK Steel contacted West Chester Police reference the theft of parts from AK Steel where the parts are being sold on Ebay. Despite the fact that it was later discovered that the thefts were occurring outside of our jurisdiction, Det. Thomas was able to collect enough information to pass on to law enforcement in Butler, Pennsylvania for them to take over the case. As a result, Butler (PA) investigators made an arrest of an AK Steel Employee who was charge in the theft of over \$100,000.00 in parts from AK Steel. Det. Thomas is to be commended for his investigative efforts in this matter.

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 15

Employee Name/Badge #: Det. Thomas, 182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
2/20/2015	2/20/2015	Commended	<i>DT 182</i>	<i>TC 77</i>		

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

Det. Thomas is to be commended for his presentation to the Chief on a potential honor guard trip to Washington DC. Det. Thomas spent time researching the best cost efficient options to save the department money. He also made a Power Point presentation that was detailed and well thought out. Det. Thomas showed initiative and a commitment to the unit by taking on this task by himself and without an order from his unit commander. A job well done.





**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
COLONEL ERIK D. NIEHAUS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

November 7, 2014

### Letter of Recognition

*Lt. Joseph Gutman, Sgt. Jeff Gearhart, Sgt. John Kleinfeldt, Det. Kyle Smith, Det. Kevin Burger, Det. Timothy Mintkenbaugh, Det. Anthony Hawkins, Det. Jason Flick, Officer Mike Lopez, Officer Ray Jones, Officer Ernie Malott, Det. Travis Oakes, Det. Jim Thomas, and Det. Doug Farris, and Sgt. Steve Oakes.*

On September 10, 2014 West Chester Officers were dispatched to the Home Depot off of Tylersville Road for a shoplifting in progress. Upon arrival, Officer Dustin Parrett made contact with the suspect in an aisle of the store as Sergeant John Kleinfeldt arrived in the parking lot. As soon as Officer Parrett attempted to detain the suspect, later identified as John Sess, Sess fled the business and a foot pursuit ensued. During a struggle with Officer Parrett and Sergeant Kleinfeldt at the suspect vehicle, Sess placed the vehicle in reverse and struck the two officers as he fled the lot with his accomplice in the passenger seat. (14-3164)

A vehicle pursuit was initiated by responding officers on southbound I-75 and the vehicle was lost in the area of I-75 and Glendale-Milford Road. An intense search for the vehicle and occupants was initiated in Hamilton County as detectives and patrol officers began to piece this investigation together while the two injured officers were being treated at West Chester Hospital.

By evening, this team of individuals had discovered the name of the vehicle owner and had the vehicle under West Chester control with the assistance of Cincinnati Police. By the next day, the passenger was charged and the driver was identified as John Sess. On Friday, September 12, with the assistance of numerous Cincinnati Police Officers, a residence where Sess was residing was placed under surveillance. Cincinnati Police took Sess into custody a short time later when he exited the residence.

The professional police work and personal commitment that went into this investigation by all involved is simply remarkable. From the identification of the suspect vehicle by Detective Smith, the ALPR work by Officer Malott, and the perseverance of the officers associated with this case is a testament to the caliber of personnel in this organization as well as the law enforcement community, specifically Cincinnati Police in this case.

Fantastic Work! I thank you all for the work you do and all you stand for. We had two officers injured with nothing to go on and in less than 48 hours, you had this case solved and both suspects in custody. That is a tremendous morale boost for all of us, more so for the injured officers. The teamwork in this case was proven to be resolute and a significant deposit in our efforts to be recognized as a *Premier Law Enforcement Organization*.

  
Captain Brian Rebholz

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2014

Employee Name/Badge #: P.O. Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
5/23/2014	5/28/14	Commended	STH 182	BDS	SS687	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

P.O. Thomas assisted with a CPA presentation. It was well received. Thanks for a job well done.

# West Chester Police Department

## Police Service Log

Year: 2014

Employee Name/Badge #: Jim Thomas

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
3/24/14	3/31/14	Commended	JTS	BEB	MLB	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

Jim,

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE! YOU GUYS  
LOOKED GREAT & I APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO.  
THANKS AGAIN AND KEEP UP THE GREAT  
WORK. THE LEADERSHIP 21 GROUP WAS VERY  
IMPRESSED.

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2014

Employee Name/Badge #: Detective James Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
3/6/2014	3/6/2014	Commended	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i> #10234	<i>[Signature]</i>	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On March 5, 2014, I received information from Officer Jeffery Newman that he recently signed eight (8) Felony warrants on three (3) subjects out of Hamilton County. Officer Newman went on to say that he had been seeking assistance from Detective Thomas throughout his investigation.

Officer Newman realized the importance of information sharing which helped him in solving the case and the importance of obtaining assistance from the other resources within our department.

During the assistance of the investigation, Officer Newman requested Detective Thomas to sit in on an interview involving the case. On only one days' notice, Detective Thomas agreed.

It is this information sharing and guidance from other units within our department that help in assisting in solving these types of cases. When this occurs, it is then when these officers should be recognized.

Sgt. Steve Oakes #34

*GREAT JOB Jim!*  
*[Signature]*

# West Chester Police Department

## Police Service Log

Year: 2012

Employee Name/Badge #: JIM THOMAS #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
11/2/12	1/29/13	Commended	JMT 182	BEB 1/10/13		

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

Jim,

I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANKS FOR THE  
WORK YOU DID DURING THE ROMNEY/RYAN EVENT  
IN NOVEMBER. YOUR PROFESSIONALISM IS APPRECIATED  
& NOTICED. THANKS AGAIN & KEEP UP THE  
GOOD WORK!



## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2012

Employee Name/Badge #: Detective Jim Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
3/28/2012	3/28/2012	Commended	JT/182	JD/52	JS/687	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

The Butler County Prosecutor has started an Elderly Abuse Taskforce in which the West Chester Police Department participates. One of the objectives of the group is to be a resource to the senior community in an attempt to prevent crime from occurring through education. On 3/27/2012 the Prosecutor organized a presentation to a group of seniors and the media. Detective Thomas volunteered to be present to answer questions about crimes against the elderly. Detective Thomas was well prepared and reportedly did a fantastic job presenting the materials. His dedication to the organization and his professionalism is appreciated. It reflects well on him and the West Chester Police Department.



WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
COLONEL ERIK D. NIEHAUS  
1/31/12 CHIEF OF POLICE

### Unit Citation

Lt. Joe Gutman	Det. A.J. Schweier	Det. Tim Mintkenbaugh
Sgt. Steve Oakes	Det. Jim Thomas	Det. Dave Stromberg
Sgt. Jeff Gearhart	Det. Tom Dexter	Det. Daniel Dean
Sgt. John Kleinfeldt	Det. Dave Mize	Det. Doug Farris

On October 1, 2011 at 0116 AM, I received a call from Lt. Gutman confirming that one of our own, Officer David Busemeyer, had compromised an undercover narcotics operation being orchestrated by the Directed Patrol Unit. Shortly before the transaction was to take place, Busemeyer contacted an acquaintance informing the individual to warn the target of the operation. As a result, the target of the investigation was able to identify and make contact with the confidential informant essentially destroying the investigation and placing the safety of the informant and officers in jeopardy.

The subsequent criminal investigation was initiated immediately and I placed a call to Sgt. Steve Oakes to respond to the station tasking him with the lead investigative role for the investigation into the actions of David Busemeyer. Lt. Joe Gutman, Sgt. Steve Oakes, and Sgt. Jeff Gearhart assembled their personnel quickly and formulated a plan of action to identify, seize, analyze, and prepare all statements and evidence for prosecution. Within days, the members of the Criminal Investigations Section, under the leadership of Lt. Gutman, Sgt. Oakes, and Sgt. Gearhart, were able to prepare a case for review by the Butler County Prosecutor.

The individual efforts of all involved led to the successful completion and presentation of facts for prosecution. The teamwork displayed is an example for all officers to follow and is a textbook model of the ability of police officers to set aside personal feelings for the mission at hand. Corruption in the ranks is very difficult to comprehend let alone investigate. The West Chester Police Department suffered no negative media inquiries as a result of the investigation and I believe that is a testament to the officers of this organization. The West Chester Police Department did not violate the public trust, David Busemeyer did. That violation of trust was handled and handled swiftly by the West Chester Police Department. I salute you all!

Congratulations and thank you for a job well done. Continue to set and maintain a high standard of performance and conduct. It is recognized, respected, and definitely appreciated.

David Busemeyer plead guilty on January 25, 2012 to Attempted Tampering with Evidence, a fourth degree felony, and Obstructing Justice, a fifth degree felony. He was allowed to resign his position later that afternoon.

Respectfully,

Captain Brian Rebholz  
Support Bureau Commander

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2011

Employee Name/Badge #: Detective James Thomas # 182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
10/7/2011	10/7/2011	Commended	JT 182	JSG87	JSG87	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

Detective Jim Thomas was publicly commended by the Butler County Prosecutor for his outstanding efforts in the State of Ohio v. Summer Salm case. Detective Thomas' efforts were key to obtaining a conviction in the case. The Prosecutor specifically commented on Detective Thomas' diligence and keen investigative skills in this case. Congratulations on a job well done.



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Home > News

## Woman embezzled \$26,500 from dentist

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- Woman in good condition, cited in I-75 crash Oct 6

By Denise G. Callahan, Staff Writer

6:41 PM Thursday, October 6, 2011

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Larger type

**HAMILTON** — A woman who embezzled \$26,500 from a West Chester Twp. dental office will spend the next 15 months in prison.

Summer Salm, 34, of Franklin was sentenced by Butler County Common Pleas Judge Michael Sage Wednesday after pleading guilty to two counts of theft by deception in August.

Butler County Prosecutor Mike Gmoser said Salm worked for Dr. Joel Koch in his dental offices as a billing clerk. When people paid their co-pays, Gmoser said Salm would enter the amount in the computer, give the patient a receipt and then erase the payment and pocket the cash.

The second prong to her "elaborate scam" was to bill her insurance for false medical claims for family members and then retain the 80 percent insurance payment, according to Gmoser. He credited his assistant prosecutor Susan Schultz and West Chester Twp. Det. Jim Thomas for securing Salm's conviction.

"This was an outstanding effort by our 'white collar' team," Gmoser said. "It takes a lot of diligence and keen investigative skills to put together a successful financial fraud case, and with the assistance of Detective Thomas, Assistant Prosecutor Schultz was able to present a very clear case to the jury."

Contact this reporter at (513) 696-4525 or [dcallahan@coxohio.com](mailto:dcallahan@coxohio.com).

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## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2009

Employee Name/Badge #: P.O. Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
10/6/2009	10/9/09	Commended	SPT 182	[Signature]	[Signature]	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On 09/10/09 police were sent to the scene of a Felonious Assault at Triangle Park Dr., which later developed into a Murder investigation. Responding Uniform Patrol Bureau officers secured the scene, provided first aid and insured that no additional injuries or deaths occurred. After Uniform Patrol Bureau secured the scene the Criminal Investigations Section responded and conducted a lengthy investigation, which ultimately resulted in 2 arrests.

All of the officers and supervisors are commended for working well as a team to bring about a quick resolution to this case. Each was assigned a task to perform, which they did without hesitation. As a result of the team effort, the guilty parties were brought to justice.

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2008

Employee Name/Badge #: Det. James Thomas, #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
12/18/2008	12/19/2008	Commended	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i> 116	<i>[Signature]</i> #34	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On 12/17/08, I spoke with Prosecutor Dan Ferguson in regards to an embezzlement case Det. Thomas investigated. He advised that Det. Thomas investigated Christina Pawlowsky for embezzling nearly \$350,000.00 from her employer by using the company credit card and writing checks to her husband over a 3 year period. Ms. Pawlowsky was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Case #08-3392

Mr. Ferguson stated that Det. Thomas's investigation was well organized and very detailed. He advised that he wished that he received more cases with as much detail and that Det. Thomas basically presented a case that was thoroughly wrapped up "with a bow on it." Det. Thomas is to be commended for his attention to detail and thorough investigation.



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE

CHIEF OF POLICE

28 August 2008

Mr. Mark L. Carr, Vice President and CFO  
Escort, Inc.  
5440 West Chester Road  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Dear Mr. Carr:

Thank you for your letter of appreciation to the West Chester Police Department for the services rendered by Detective Thomas while assisting you with your recent case involving fraudulent internet orders. It is gratifying to know that our constant effort to provide competent and efficient police service, in a kind and compassionate manner, is recognized by those we serve.

I will extend my sincere thank you and forward your correspondence to Detective Thomas. Also, an appropriate entry will be made in his personnel file acknowledging the services provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police

Distribution:

Ms. Judith C. Boyko, Administrator  
Mr. James Deitherage, Public Safety Director  
Support Bureau Commander  
CIS Lieutenant  
Personnel file- Thomas #182  
General department circulation



ESCORT Inc.  
5440 West Chester Road  
West Chester OH 45069

513.870.8500  
513.870.8509 Fax  
www.EscortRadar.com

August 27, 2008

Col. John Bruce  
Chief of Police  
West Chester Police  
9577 Beckett Road  
Suite 500  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Dear Col. Bruce:

I wanted to write a brief letter of appreciation for the work performed by Detective Thomas. Our company had received several on-line orders originating from New York that proved to be fraudulent. After becoming aware of the situation, we contacted your office and met with Detective Thomas.

What we have learned is the internet has opened up huge opportunities for individuals to operate dishonestly. Because of this virtual environment, it also has proven very difficult, cumbersome and time consuming to track these perpetrators down. In this most recent case, we had the name and delivery address of the person originating the fraudulent orders. Detective Thomas took our crime report and told us he would do what he could to help us out. Knowing that we were dealing with multiple states and jurisdictions, I was not very hopeful the issue would go much farther. However, Detective Thomas, through his diligence, was able to make contact with the appropriate person at the United States Postal Service Investigation Unit and put them in contact with us. They in turn coordinated an operation with us to arrange to deliver our product to the address in hopes of making an arrest. Unfortunately, the person ordering the package did not answer the door (the property looked vacant) nor did they respond to the delivery notices on the door.

Even though an arrest was not made, I am very appreciative of the follow-through of Detective Thomas and wanted to bring this to your attention.

Again, thanks to your department for the assistance given to our company.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Carr  
Vice President and CFO



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE

CHIEF OF POLICE

10 August 2007

Mr. Bob G. Elkins  
9081 Canal Way  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Dear Mr. Elkins:

Thank you for your letter of appreciation to the West Chester Police Department for the services rendered by Police Officer James Thomas. It is gratifying to know that our constant effort to provide competent and efficient police service, in a kind and compassionate manner, is recognized by those we serve.

I will extend my sincere thank you and forward your correspondence to Officer Thomas. Also, an appropriate entry will be made in his personnel file acknowledging the services provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police


Distribution:  
Ms. Judith C. Boyko, Administrator  
Mr. James Detherage, Public Safety Director  
Patrol Bureau Commander  
Personnel file- Thomas #182  
General department circulation

August 8, 2007

Colonel John Bruce  
West Chester Police  
9577 Beckett Road  
Suite 500  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Colonel Bruce: Recently your officer Thomas responded to a call from me to your Police Department , where I reported a suspected theft at my home regarding my air conditioning unit.

Please accept this letter as a note of praise for your Police Department and especially Officer Thomas. Your attention to my situation was handled in a friendly and professional manner. I was very impressed with the prompt and complete follow up by Officer Thomas. I have since considered the situation a closed matter. But I was impressed that your Officer Thomas treated my situation in a serious manner. You have my respect. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
Bob G. Elkins

Bob G. Elkins  
9081 Canal Way  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2007

Employee Name/Badge #: P.O. Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
7/24/2007	8/27/07	Commended	RT 182	ES 182	PM 45	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On 7/16/07 P.O. Thomas began a crash investigation (2007-1022). This investigation required follow-up and interviews. As a result of his perseverance P.O. Thomas was able to identify the suspect, close the case and make several arrests.



## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 07

Employee Name/Badge #: PO J. Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
6/15/2007	6-15-07	Commended	JKT 182	TEO 115	TEO 115	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On 6-14-07 PO J. Thomas #182 responded to a swimmer in distress call in the retention pond next to 9928 Windisch Rd. On his own initiative without hesitation PO Thomas entered the water in an attempt to locate the person in distress. This selfless display of courage reflected great credit upon himself and the Law Enforcement profession as a whole.



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE

CHIEF OF POLICE

17 October 2005

Mr. Dale R. Lambing, Assistant Cubmaster  
Cub Scouts Pack 939  
C/O Adena Elementary  
9316 Minuteman Way  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Dear Mr. Lambing and Cubscouts of Pack 939:

Thank you for your letter of appreciation to the West Chester Police Department for the services rendered by Police Officers Michelle Berling and James Thomas. It is gratifying to know that our constant effort to provide competent and efficient police service, in a kind and compassionate manner, is recognized by those we serve.

I will extend my sincere thank you and forward your correspondence to the officers. Also, an appropriate entry will be made in their personnel file acknowledging the services provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police

Distribution:  
Ms. Judith Boyko, Administrator  
Captain David Kelly, Patrol Bureau Commander  
Personnel file- Berling #168, Thomas #182  
General department circulation

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2005

Employee Name/Badge #: Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
10/6/2005	10/12/05	Commended	JRT / 182	HW #67	HW #67	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

Police Officer James Thomas is commended for his hard work, dedication, and professionalism during his assignment to the West Chester Police Mounted Patrol Unit May 27, 2004 – October 8, 2005.

# CUB SCOUTS PACK 939

## WEST CHESTER, OHIO

CUBMASTER - JEFF HIOTT  
ASST CUBMASTER - DALE R. LAMBING  
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON - MIKE DYE  
TREASURER - LISA SPECKERT

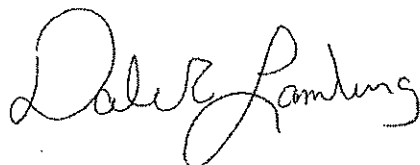
Date: 9-16-05

Dear Col. John Bruce,

On Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 2005 Pack 939 held its first pack meeting of the year. As the meeting was so close to the 9-11-01 anniversary, the cub scouts wanted to honor the police officers of the West Chester Police Dept. for being "our heroes". Officer John Thomas and Officer Michelle Berling of your mounted patrol responded to our request to demonstrate their equestrian skills and to talk to approximately 60 cub scouts about their work as police officers. Your officers were extremely professional and more than courteous to the kids as they answered many questions that first through fifth graders would ask. The scouts loved the demonstration as did many of the parents and cub scout leaders. The scouts then signed a banner thanking "our heroes" and presented it to your officers along with a Cub Scout salute.

I would like to thank you for allowing your officers to take the time to be with us. Also, a special thanks to Sgt. John Hunkler for arranging for your officers to be there. He handled our request promptly and professionally. Your officers should be commended for a job well done!

Sincerely,



Dale R. Lambing  
Asst. Cubmaster  
Pack 939



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE

CHIEF OF POLICE

23 May 2005

Mr. David L. Standridge  
6709 Highland Greens Drive, #214 E.  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Dear Mr. Standridge:

Thank you for your letter of appreciation to the West Chester Police Department for the services rendered by the mounted patrol unit: Sergeant Mark Weingartner, Police Officers Michelle Berling, Scott Lovett, Neil Schmitz and James Thomas. It is gratifying to know that our constant effort to provide competent and efficient police service, in a kind and compassionate manner, is recognized by those we serve.

I will extend my sincere thank you and forward your correspondence to the officers. Also, an appropriate entry will be made in their personnel file acknowledging the services provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police

Distribution:

Ms. Judith Carter, Administrator

Captain David Kelly

Personnel file- Weingartner #67, M. Berling #168, Lovett #148, Schmitz #157 & Thomas #182

General department circulation

## West Chester Police

David L. Standridge  
6709 Highland Greens Dr. #214E  
West Chester, OH. 45069

May 14, 2005

Public Relations Dept.

9577 Beckett Rd. #500

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is for the gratitude of the City of West Chester's equestrian patrol. It has been my pleasure to see these beautiful horses and their riders taking care of the residences of Woodbridge on the Lake apartments. The officers have been outstanding in the effort to fight the wrongs in society and have been an asset to the police force. Not only has the department shown an incredible amount of generosity, but also has recognized the reasoning for this type of citizenship. You all have showed the productive side of community involvement.

I would like to thank to following members of the Department:

Sgt. Weingartner

Officer Berling]

Officer Lovett

Officer Schmitz

Officer Thomas

Thank you very much and I apologize if I left anyone out. May God bless you all,

Sincerely,



David L. Standridge  
Purchasing Director  
Cincinnati Eye Institute

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2005

Employee Name/Badge #: Police Officer James Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
3/18/2005	4/6/05	Commended	JT 182	RTRAIL	MW#67	

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

On March 17, 2005 Police Officer James Thomas, a member of the West Chester Police Department Mounted Unit, participated in the Leadership 21 symposium held at the West Chester Police Department. The mounted unit is an important function within the police department and fairly new to the West Chester Police Department. Police Officer Thomas did a fine job during the demonstration and is a good example of the type of police officer who can make the mounted unit successful.

## West Chester Police Department Police Service Log

Year: 2004

Employee Name/Badge #: Thomas #182

Date of Entry	Date Notified	Supervisory Action Taken	Employee Initials/ Badge #	Initiating Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Reviewing Supervisor Initials/Badge #	Further Disposition Add To Summary
7/30/2004	8/3/04	Commended	TH #182	HL #67		

Activity Summary Including Date of Occurrence:

**P.O. Thomas successfully completed 8 weeks of Mounted Patrol Officer Training conducted by the West Chester Police Department.**





**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE

CHIEF OF POLICE

23 July 2004

Assistant Chief Don Simpson  
City of Forest Park  
Division of Police  
1203 West Kemper Road  
Forest Park, Ohio 45240

Dear Assistant Chief Simpson:

Thank you for your letter of appreciation to the West Chester Police Department for the services rendered by Sergeant Mark Weingartner, Police Officers Neil Schmitz, and Jim Thomas while demonstrating our mounted patrol unit to your summer youth program. It is the joint cooperation of our departments at events, such as these, that strengthen the working relationship between our organizations.

I will extend my sincere thank you and forward your correspondence to the officers. Also, an appropriate entry will be made in their personnel file acknowledging the services provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police

Distribution:  
Mr. David Gully, Administrator  
Captain David Kelly, Patrol Bureau Commander  
Personnel file- Weingartner #67, Schmitz #157, Thomas #75  
General department circulation



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE

CHIEF OF POLICE

28 May 2004

Uniform Patrol Bureau

Support Bureau  
Criminal Investigation Section  
Personal Property Crimes Unit

Support Bureau  
Criminal Investigation Section  
Youth Aid Unit

Support Bureau  
Criminal Investigation Section  
Directed Patrol Unit

Support Bureau  
Criminal Investigation Section  
Criminalistics Unit

I would like to extend my sincerest thank you, to each of you, for an excellent job investigating, solving and providing support to the Chad Re Homicide. This case could not have been solved if it weren't for the dedication and cooperation of each and every police officer and unit within the West Chester Police Department. The Uniform Patrol Bureau sacrificed desperately needed personnel at a time when manpower was short, allowing the Criminal Investigation Section to utilize the abilities of experienced officers to assist with the case. The Criminalistics Unit did a terrific job processing the scene. Detective Gary Gabbard, the lead investigator, and Detective Matt Tombragel deserve a special thank you for their outstanding work on the case. I am extremely proud of the outstanding police work demonstrated, but I am the proudest of the collaborative effort and interdepartmental teamwork it took to solve this case. Congratulations on a job well done!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police

Distribution:  
Mr. David Gully, Administrator  
Colonel John W. Bruce – Chief of Police  
Captain Joel Herzog – Patrol Bureau Commander  
Captain David Kelly – Support Bureau Commander  
Personnel files  
General Department Circulation



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE

CHIEF OF POLICE

20 April 2004

Deputy M. Gerhardt #1174  
Butler County Sheriff  
705 Hanover Street  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

Dear Deputy Gerhardt:

Thank you for your letter of appreciation to the West Chester Police Department for the services rendered by Police Officer James Thomas. It is gratifying to know that our constant effort to provide competent and efficient police service, in a kind and compassionate manner, is recognized by those we serve.

I will extend my sincere thank you and forward your correspondence to Officer Thomas. Also, an appropriate entry will be made in his personnel file acknowledging the services provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police

Distribution:  
Mr. David Gully, Administrator  
Captain David Kelly, Patrol Bureau Commander  
Personnel file- Thomas #182  
General department circulation

*Agencies for Combined Enforcement*

**GREENE COUNTY**

**A.C.E. TASK FORCE**



1388 Research Park Drive • Beavercreek, Ohio 45432 • (937) 562-7980 • 1-800-633-TIPS • FAX: (937) 562-7985

February 22, 2012

Chief Erik Niehaus  
West Chester Police Department  
9577 Beckett Road  
West Chester, Ohio 45069

RECEIVED  
2012 FEB 29 PM 4:06  
WEST CHESTER POLICE

Dear Sir,

The Greene County Agencies for Combined Enforcement (ACE Task Force), Kettering Police Department, West Chester Police Department, Englewood Police Department and the Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Division conducted a multi-jurisdictional investigation involving a tree-trimming theft operation that targeted elderly victims in Greene, Butler, Franklin, and Montgomery Counties. The teamwork of everyone involved ended a several year reign of three subjects who were taking advantage of the elderly.

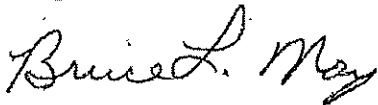
The prosecution of this criminal enterprise was led by Principal Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Blanton, the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Division, First Assistant Prosecutor Suzanne Schmidt and Assistant Prosecutor Cheri Stout, Greene County Prosecutor's Office. A Greene County grand jury indicted Jason R. Johnson, Timothy Henery, and Christopher Gibbs for engaging in a theft enterprise that targeted elderly consumers. The enterprise deceived victims into believing they needed tree trimming or lawn care work because their trees were diseased, damaged, or unsafe. The individuals accepted money for work that was never completed, and infiltrated legitimate tree trimming companies to trick their victims into believing they were credible.

Although other defendants were indicted in the organization, Jason Johnson, Christopher Gibbs, and Timothy Henery were the principle leaders of the theft enterprise. These three subjects received lengthy sentences from the Greene County Common Pleas Court and their deception and reign of abuse against the elderly has been stopped.

The above listed defendants preyed upon the defenseless elderly and depleted their much needed life savings by using intimidation and deception. It is unknown how many elderly people were victimized. Many of the crimes went unreported due to the victims being embarrassed or ashamed of losing their savings. Sadly a number of victims suffered from dementia and were incapable of filing a complaint. Without a doubt had the investigative agencies and prosecutors involved not put forth their gallant effort the enterprise would still be in operation today.

The team work was exemplary from all personnel and efforts were extraordinary. I would like to take this time to commend and thank Det. James Thomas. His expertise assisted the Task Force in accomplishing the goals of serving our communities better in Greene County and he represented the West Chester Police Department in the most professional manner. The members of ACE Task Force, the ACE Task Force Board of Directors and their respective Departments were greatly appreciative of working with Det. Thomas. Please place a copy of this letter in Det. Thomas' personnel file and thank him for a job well done.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce L. May". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bruce L. May, Director  
Greene County ACE Task Force



**WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
COLONEL ERIK D. NIEHAUS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

March 6, 2012

Mr. Bruce L. May  
Greene County ACE Task Force  
1388 Research Park Drive  
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

Dear Mr. May,

Thank you for the letter you recently sent to the West Chester Police Department to show your appreciation to Detective James Thomas for commending him on his extraordinary efforts and expertise with assisting the ACE Task Force with an investigation involving a tree-trimming theft operation that targeted elderly victims in several counties. It was very thoughtful of you to take a moment to express your gratitude for his service. I will extend my sincere thank you to Detective Thomas and make an appropriate entry in his personnel file acknowledging the services provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erik D. Niehaus".

Colonel Erik D. Niehaus  
Chief of Police

EDN/cr

Distribution:  
Ms. Judith C. Boyko, Administrator  
Support Bureau Commander  
Lt. Gutman #87  
Sgt. Oakes #34  
Personnel file- Thomas #182  
General department circulation



## Harold "Don" Gabbard - Sheriff

Butler County, Ohio — U.S.A.  
705 Hanover Street Hamilton Ohio 45011  
Hamilton 513.785.1000 • Middletown 513.424.2456  
[www.butlersheriff.org](http://www.butlersheriff.org)

Richard K. Jones  
Chief Deputy  
Administration  
513.785.1000

Anthony E. Dwyer  
Major  
Administration  
513.785.1000

Norman E. Lewis  
Captain  
Corrections  
513.785.1100

G. Michael Grimes  
Captain  
Road Patrol  
513.785.1006

Greg Blankenship  
Captain  
Civil  
513.785.1005

Michael Craft  
Lieutenant  
Investigations  
513.785.1231

Personnel  
513.785.1011

Investigations  
513.785.1230

Corrections  
513.785.1100

Central Records  
513.785.1030

Road Patrol  
513.785.1200

Court Services  
Civil Process  
513.785.1280

Warrants  
513.785.1270

Dispatch  
513.785.1300

Victim's Assistance  
513.887.3430

Colonel John W. Bruce;


On 8/24/03 at approximately 2145hrs, I observed two subjects committing a theft offense at the Tractor Supply on S.R.4. The subjects jumped into their U-haul truck, fled the scene and initiated a pursuit throughout Liberty Township. During the pursuit, the suspect struck a motorist in the rear causing a severe damage to the vehicle.

Officer James Thomas responded to Lesourdsville West Chester Rd. near Kyles Station and assisted us by taking the accident report. Officer Thomas faxed the report to my substation and called my dispatch center to ensure that I had received the report.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank your officer for assisting with this matter. The suspect was apprehended and convicted of a felony 4 on April 5, 2004. I feel that your officer went beyond his expected performance in assisting us and I especially appreciate that he took the time to contact me personally to ensure that I had received the information.

I realize that it is a tough job taking care of calls that occur in your respective area without having to cover calls for an entirely other department and I wanted you to know that I appreciate his assistance.

Respectfully,

  
Dep. M. Gerhardt #1174



WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
COLONEL JOHN W. BRUCE  
CHIEF OF POLICE

11 August 2003

To all police employees:

I would like to thank each of you for your participation at the Union Centre Boulevard Bash over the weekend. The "Bash" was a tremendous success that was achieved through many hours of planning, dedication and hard work. I was extremely proud of the manner in which the West Chester Police Department was represented. Not only at the event but also by the officers that patrolled, our community, maintaining normal police operations during the event as well.

It was truly an honor for me to have numerous members of our community come to me expressing their gratitude and pride in our police department. Again, thank you and congratulations for a job well done!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Bruce".

Colonel John W. Bruce  
Chief of Police

Distribution:  
Mr. David Gully, Administrator  
Capt. David Kelly, Support Bureau Commander  
Capt. Joel Herzog, Patrol Bureau Commander  
Personnel Files  
General department circulation